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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 46/13 of 28 October 1991, the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/417 and Add.1). It further took note of the conclusions and recommendations of the sectoral meeting on Human Resources Development: Basic Education and Training, held at Rabat from 24 to 26 April 1991. It requested the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to continue cooperation in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament and fundamental human rights; and encouraged the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their cooperation with OIC.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly recommended that a general meeting between representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions be organized in 1992 at a date and place to be determined through consultations with the concerned organizations. It requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of OIC, to continue to encourage the convening of sectoral meetings in the priority areas of cooperation, namely, the areas of environment, disaster relief and science and technology, including follow-up to the sectoral meeting on Human Resources Development, held at Rabat in April 1991. It further requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the state of cooperation between the United Nations and OIC.

II. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARIATS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS

3. On 1 October 1991, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference held their annual coordination meeting at United Nations Headquarters to discuss the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, particularly those items of concern and interest to OIC. In response to an invitation from OIC, the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship of the Secretariat attended the coordination meeting on behalf of the Secretary-General.

4. The meeting reviewed the current international situation, dealing in particular with issues concerning the Middle East and the question of Palestine; "the consequence of Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and Iraq's non-implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy"; the situation in Afghanistan; the situation in South Africa; and the critical economic situation in Africa.

5. On 2 October 1991, during his visit to United Nations Headquarters, Mr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary-General of OIC, met with the Secretary-General of the United Nations to discuss matters of concern to the two organizations.

6. At the invitation of OIC and the Government of Senegal, the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship represented the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, held at Dakar, Senegal, from 9 to 11 December 1991, at which he delivered a message on behalf of the Secretary-General.

7. During the period under review, representatives of OIC participated in the meetings of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

8. Regular consultations were held and information exchanged between the Department of Political Affairs and the general secretariat of OIC as well as the Office of the Permanent Observer for OIC to the United Nations.

9. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/9 of 25 October 1990, a general meeting between representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions was held at Geneva from 19 to 22 November 1991. The report of the meeting will be issued as an addendum to the present report (A/47/450/Add.1).

III. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COORDINATION MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF THE LEAD AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND ITS SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS

10. It may be recalled that the United Nations system and OIC established seven priority areas as the basis for their cooperation and designated specific agencies and organizations on both sides to serve as focal points for each priority area.

11. The agencies and organizations of the United Nations system serving as focal points for the seven priority areas are as follows:

	Agency/organization	Priority area
A.	Centre for Science and Technology for Development, United Nations Secretariat	Development of science and technology
B.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Development of trade
C.	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Technical cooperation among Islamic countries

	Agency/organization	Priority area
D.	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Assistance to refugees
E.	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Food security and agriculture
F.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Education and eradication of illiteracy
G.	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Investment mechanisms and joint ventures

12. Outlined below is a summary of the reports of the agencies and organizations serving as focal points concerning their cooperation with OIC in the priority areas during the period under review.

A. Development of science and technology

Cooperation with the Islamic Academy of Science

13. As part of the cooperation with OIC in the area of science and technology, a paper from the Science and Technology Branch of the Science, Technology, Environment, Energy and National Resources Division, Department of Economic and Social Development of the Secretariat, was submitted to the Islamic Academy of Science (IAS) conference in 1991 on "Science and Technology: Manpower Development in the Muslim World". The paper entitled "Sustainable Development: Manpower's Challenge to Manage Technological Change" discussed ways and means to enhance the scientific and technological capacity of manpower in the Islamic world within the context of sustainable development.

Endogenous capacity-building for the Islamic world

14. Work on the endogenous capacity-building (ECB) project hosted by Jordan continues. A mission from the Science and Technology Branch visited Jordan to work with the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) on a project proposal for the Science and Technology Information System (STIS).

15. Two consultation sessions were held between the Science and Technology Branch and the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD). The purpose was to establish a concrete basis for cooperation and to identify projects of common interest.

16. The first was held at Geneva from 19 to 22 November 1991 during the United Nations/OIC General Meeting. Both the Director of the former Centre for Science and Technology for Development and the Director-General of IFSTAD established general areas for cooperation.

17. The second was held at Amman in February 1992. Upon invitation from IFSTAD a representative from the Science and Technology Branch met with the Director-General of IFSTAD. A note of understanding and a guideline for cooperation were discussed during the meeting.

Proposed conferences and workshops

(a) Conference on conversion of military equipment to civilian use

18. The Conference will be in line with the concept of the "International Conference on Conversion: Opportunities for Development and the Environment" held in Dortmund, Germany, from 24 to 27 February 1992. As part of the preparatory process for the Conference a representative from IFSTAD attended the Dortmund meeting. Work is progressing on adapting the framework and concept of the meeting to the conditions of the Islamic world. The Conference, which is being organized in cooperation with IFSTAD, would be held at Amman, Jordan.

(b) Workshop on technology assessment

19. The workshop will focus on technology assessment and monitoring, including the understanding of the various orders of consequence of technological processes, and particularly the capacities and needs of developing countries to deal with technology assessment. IFSTAD is interested in holding the workshop in cooperation with the Science and Technology Branch and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in one of the member countries of OIC and ESCWA.

(c) Workshop on biotechnology

20. The workshop's focus will be on identifying policy issues and options for endogenous capacity-building in biotechnology. The workshop is expected to cover topics ranging from biotechnology forecasting and assessment to specific applications in agriculture, food production and the development of biotech-specific substances. Furthermore, questions of technology transfer and cross-nation linkages will be discussed. Special attention is to be paid to scientific and non-technical infrastructure, training, needed institutional support, commercialization and export potential, international cooperation and strategic alliances, as well as policy requirements to facilitate the implementation of concrete measurements. The biotechnology workshop is proposed to be organized in collaboration with ESCWA.

Environment and development

21. As an input to the Islamic countries' efforts to reach sustainable development, the Science and Technology Branch, IFSTAD and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will work towards preparing a background working paper for the Sectoral Meeting on "Science and Technology with Special Emphasis on the Environment". The Director-General of IFSTAD should be visiting United Nations Headquarters in the near future to discuss the details of the Sectoral Meeting.

22. Furthermore, discussions are still going on to undertake a concrete project on women and technology with special emphasis on the environment in one of the OIC member countries. The project aims at providing women in developing countries - especially Islamic developing countries - with up-to-date information on economically viable and ecologically sustainable technologies.

B. Development of trade

23. The main areas of cooperation between UNCTAD and the general secretariat of OIC, and some of its specialized institutions, were identified at the General Meeting between the secretariats of the United Nations system and OIC, held at Geneva in November 1991, as set out in paragraphs 22 and 70-73 of the report of the sectoral meeting (A/47/450/Add.1).

24. In pursuance of this meeting UNCTAD transmitted to the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC) in Ankara a copy of the draft Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)-African project proposal for the exchange of experience among integration groups of the developing regions. UNCTAD also provided computerized trade statistics to SESRTCIC on intra-trade among developing countries for nitrogenous, phosphatic and potassic fertilizers as well as an UNCTAD study on fertilizers (UNCTAD/ECDC/ST/44, Parts I and II). A study on private enterprise, structural adjustment and integration in the Maghreb by an UNCTAD consultant has been available to SESRTCIC, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Casablanca, and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Jeddah, as an input for their research programmes. UNCTAD has given assistance to IsDB in identifying resource persons for a seminar they are organizing. There has been an exchange of information with the Ankara Research Centre on the potential for economic cooperation with the Central Asian republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

25. In the area of transfer of technology, UNCTAD has been cooperating with the IsDB in the preparation and organization of a workshop on the relationship between industrial property rights, technology development and trade. This is in follow-up to long-standing cooperation between UNCTAD and IsDB within the framework of a project funded by the Bank entailing the organization of seminars for member countries of OIC and the publication of the reports of those seminars.

26. OIC is on UNCTAD's mailing list to receive publications on the economy of the occupied territories in the Middle East. Following completion of the intersectoral study on the economy of the occupied territories, UNCTAD will invite OIC and its specialized institutions to participate in any follow-up activity that may be agreed upon.

C. Assistance to refugees

27. UNHCR continues its cooperation with OIC by maintaining close contacts through exchange of visits and information of mutual interest. A UNHCR delegation attended the Twentieth Islamic Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 4 to 8 August 1991. The High Commissioner attended the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference held at Dakar, Senegal, from 9 to 11 December 1991.

28. The Sixth Islamic Summit Conference adopted a resolution which, inter alia, confirmed and stressed OIC's continued concern about the world-wide question of refugees with particular attention to the problem of refugees in the Muslim world following the Gulf war (see A/47/88-S/23563, annex).

29. Following the signature in May 1991 of an agreement between UNHCR and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the two organizations are expected to hold meetings in order to define practical spheres of cooperation.

30. A project agreement between IsDB and UNHCR is also being finalized for the benefit of the refugees in the world in need of assistance.

D. Food security and agriculture

31. FAO's close cooperation with OIC continued during the period under review in various fields. Below are the highlights of the activities that marked the cooperation between the two organizations.

Meetings

32. FAO presented a paper entitled "Analysis of national policies to be pursued and the external assistance needed to attain food security" at the Symposium on Food Security in OIC Countries, organized at Dakar, Senegal, in November 1991, jointly by the Republic of Senegal, OIC, the African Development Bank and IsDB.

33. FAO attended the United Nations/OIC sectoral meeting on the theme "Human Resources Development: Basic Education and Training" held at Rabat, Morocco, from 24 to 26 April 1991 (see A/46/417/Add.1).

34. FAO was also represented at the Second Meeting of National Focal Points for Technical Cooperation among OIC Member Countries, held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 11 to 13 May 1991.

Investment projects for agricultural development

35. Twenty-one agricultural investment projects, prepared with the assistance of FAO's Investment Centre, were approved for financing by multilateral institutions during the reporting period. Total investments involved in these projects were estimated at US$ 1,317 million, of which US$ 864 million was from external sources (namely the World Bank/International Development Association, the African Development Bank/Fund and the International Fund for Agricultural Development) and the balance was committed by 18 recipient countries.

36. During this period, the FAO Investment Centre completed formulation of 20 additional investment projects in OIC countries for eventual consideration by financing institutions, carried out 5 subsector surveys and assisted Governments with 13 project completion reports. The Centre also visited 12 UNDP/FAO technical assistance projects to investigate their investment potential.

Forestry

37. Cooperation in this field covered a range of activities undertaken in the framework of various forestry projects in the member countries of OIC as well as activities at country and regional levels in the priority areas of land rehabilitation and desertification control, with special reference to protection of the environment and food security, development of forests and forest resources, strengthening of national institutions, and development of national capacities and skills.

38. Collaboration continued in the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Programme (TFAP); a new Forestry Action Programme for the Mediterranean Region was being promoted which would benefit OIC countries mainly in the areas of planning and sustainable management of forests and forest resources.

39. Meetings organized by FAO in this field, which were of particular interest to OIC, included the meeting related to the Greenbelt Project for the Arab States of North Africa, held at Tunis from 21 to 25 May 1991; the meeting of the Technical Consultative Committee and Permanent Committee of the Greenbelt Project for the Arab States of North Africa, held at Cairo from 15 to 19 June 1991; the Tenth World Forestry Congress, held in Paris from 17 to 26 September 1991; and Sylva Mediterranean held in Portugal from 16 to 20 March 1992.

Information systems

40. Thirty-five OIC member States participated in AGRIS (International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology) and CARIS (Current Agricultural Research Information System) in a world-wide network of 170 AGRIS and 25 CARIS centres. They benefited from the systems' outputs and services, which included the facility for exchange of information.

41. FAO continued to provide assistance on request to strengthen national and regional agricultural documentation capacities. Advisory and training missions by FAO staff and consultants were carried out in 13 OIC countries, and nationals from three countries received briefing and training in Rome.

Training

42. Agricultural sector analysis: Some representatives of OIC countries were among the participants in an introductory course on a Computerized System for Agricultural and Population Planning Assistance and Training (CAPPA) which was held at FAO Headquarters. A similar training course was also held in Yemen for officials of that country. Another CAPPA course was organized in Cairo at the Institute of National Planning with participants from Egypt, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Oman, the Sudan and Syria.

43. Decentralized planning: A two-year project of training in regional planning for planning officials working in the regional directorates of agriculture in Tunisia was completed during this period.

44. Policy analysis: A regional project to train government officials in agricultural policy and planning in Africa was formulated with UNDP's financial support. A food and agricultural policy analysis course was conducted in Cairo from 17 November to 5 December 1991 for government officials for the Near East region. The course was jointly sponsored and organized by the Institute for National Planning of Cairo, FAO and ESCWA and attended by officials from Egypt, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and Yemen.

45. Project planning: A multi-year project, financed by the Swiss Government, on "Training on Preparation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Agricultural and Rural Development Projects" is continuing in Indonesia. By the end of the reporting period, more than 100 government officials were trained under the project with a variety of training modules in project preparation, monitoring and evaluation. Two similar projects are also proceeding in Pakistan, where several training courses were held in collaboration with local institutions. Another project of this kind is expected to become operational shortly in Pakistan.

Food security

46. This is one of the top priority areas identified by FAO and OIC. Technical assistance to strengthen food security is being given by FAO under the Food Security Assistance Scheme (FSAS) to a number of OIC member countries; in 1991 13 projects with a total budget of about US$ 23.6 million were operational in six OIC member countries. These included early warning and food information projects in Benin, the Niger, Senegal and the Sudan; market management, food reserve and cereal bank projects in Bangladesh, Benin, Chad and the Sudan; and food security policy and planning assistance projects in Chad and the Niger.

47. FSAS assistance in the formulation of comprehensive national food security programmes in Chad and the Niger was also continuing. In both countries, the first phase relating to the assessment of the food security situation was completed, and the second phase relating to the elaboration of alternative food security programmes is expected to be completed soon. In this connection, in October 1991, FAO convened in Rome an expert consultation on lessons learned in formulating comprehensive national food security programmes, including those in Chad and the Niger. The participants in the consultation recommended field testing of different techniques for identifying vulnerable groups and for developing more precise indicators for measuring the impact on food security of action programmes being proposed or under implementation, and requested FAO to develop a programme of work on both points.

E. Education and eradication of illiteracy

48. A sectoral meeting held at Rabat from 24 to 26 April 1991 designated UNESCO and ISESCO lead agencies for the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and OIC, respectively, with regard to the "Human Resources Development: Basic Education and Training" project. Carrying this cooperation further, UNESCO took part in the United Nations/OIC General Meeting at Geneva, from 19 to 22 November 1991. In collaboration with UNDP and OIC, UNESCO also made arrangements for a consultant mission to prepare a draft programme of basic education and training operations, which was discussed by a technical working group at a meeting held in early January 1992 at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. ISESCO and UNESCO's Regional Office for Education in Africa (BREDA) in Dakar have embarked on a number of such operations, notably a project on the use of the Arabic alphabet in the drive against illiteracy in Africa. UNESCO's Regional Office for Education in the Arab States (UNEDBAS) also worked closely with Headquarters in connection with the sectoral meeting.

49. In the cultural domain, UNESCO was associated at all stages with the preparation of the draft Plan of Action for Islamic Culture, which was adopted by the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, held at Dakar, Senegal, in December 1991, at which UNESCO was represented. The Plan of Action forms part of OIC's contribution to the World Decade for Cultural Development. There are also plans for cooperation between UNESCO and the Research Centre for Islamic

History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) in Istanbul. During the Decade, the two organizations will investigate the possibility of organizing a meeting on Islamic art, culture, history and philosophy.

50. In the field of science, UNESCO is cooperating with the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD) in providing assistance to two Nigerian universities: the Ahmadu Bello University at Zaria and the Usman Dan Fodiyo University of Sokoto.

51. However, most of UNESCO's activities in the field of science and technology in the Islamic world are undertaken through the Regional Office for Science and Technology for the Arab States (ROSTAS). ROSTAS contributed to the Conference on Technology Transfer for Development in the Muslim World, which was held at Antalya, Turkey, from 19 to 21 November 1990. In addition to the support provided to the Islamic Academy of Science (IAS) for the organization of the conference, a ROSTAS specialist attended the meeting and consulted with science and technology specialists from a broad geographical spread of countries.

52. The second preparatory meeting of the Arab Regional Network of Science and Technology Management was held at Cairo under the auspices of UNESCO/ROSTAS from 18 to 20 December 1991 with the participation of a representative of IsDB as observer.

53. As regards communication, UNESCO assisted OIC in preparing technical submissions to the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Information, held at Cairo in January 1992.

54. The second meeting of the UNESCO/OIC Joint Committee for Cooperation was scheduled to take place at UNESCO headquarters in the first half of 1992 to take stock of cooperation between the two organizations. Highly fruitful cooperation was also continuing with ISESCO in all UNESCO's fields of competence, and a third meeting of the Joint UNESCO/ISESCO Committee for Cooperation was due to be held at Headquarters in June 1992.

F. Technical cooperation among Islamic countries

55. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to assist Governments of OIC member States in their individual and collective efforts in many fields of social and economic development, including those identified in the United Nations/OIC areas of concentration, namely, environment, disaster relief, science and technology, and human resources development.

56. In the area of environment, projects have ranged from the development of new technologies and strategies for locust control that avoid synthetic pesticides to the determination of the amount of global warming gas (methane) that evolves from flooded rice fields in rice-growing countries. Other examples would be a global project concerned with biotechnology-assisted breeding to reduce pesticide use in potato production, and a regional

environmental technical assistance programme designed to accelerate the pace and deepen the impact of environmental policies and activities in the Mediterranean regions.

57. Projects in science and technology cover such areas as agricultural development involving the strengthening of networks and working groups for pilot production schemes, marketing research training, planning and coordination; and an intercountry network on microbial biotechnology and bioengineering applications linking existing institutions with expertise, and orienting them towards microbial cultural collections and biotechnological information exchanges.

58. Examples of projects and activities in human resources development include creation of a network for international cooperation through an exchange of information and experience in management consultancy among institutions and associations in participating countries, and enhancement of the professional quality of management consultancy firms in the participating countries; coordination and evaluation of research in human reproduction; strengthening research on tropical diseases; and support for the development of a human resources development plan for the OIC member States involving a review of basic education and training services and recommendations for improvements in these services at the national and regional levels.

59. These examples, which are illustrative and not exhaustive, portray UNDP's endeavours to continue its cooperation with OIC member States in their national and collective development efforts. The growing emphasis on the use of the national execution modality in the implementation of UNDP-funded projects should have the effect of strengthening this cooperation in the years ahead.

G. Investment mechanisms and joint ventures

60. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has pursued fruitful cooperation with OIC, its member States and specialized institutions in various fields of technical cooperation and investment activities.

61. In cooperation with the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD), UNIDO has contributed to the activities for the establishment of the Mediterranean Centre for Marine Industrial Technology.

62. UNIDO took part in the Expert Group Meeting in December 1991 and offered ideas and services for the project initiated by IFSTAD for solar cookers for the Sahel region.

63. In cooperation with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, UNIDO has contributed to the success of the seminar on "Effects of the Single European Market on the Islamic World", held in October 1991 at Casablanca, and UNIDO's representative presented a paper on "Industrial cooperation prospects

between the Arab region and the European Economic Community (EEC)/ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)".

64. In November 1991, UNIDO participated in the fourth United Nations/OIC focal point meeting, at which two areas of cooperation between OIC and UNIDO were stressed, namely: formulation of industrial policies of OIC member States, particularly with regard to investment activities; and management training.

65. Many activities have been undertaken for encouragement of industrial joint ventures through the organization of investment projects promotion forums, among which are:

(a) Organization of the Investment Projects Promotion Forum for Nigeria, 6-10 May 1991. This forum was organized in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the EEC Centre for Development and Industry and the West Africa Committee in the United Kingdom. A total of 283 projects were presented and discussed between the Nigerian project sponsors and the foreign participants. UNIDO is currently assisting in further contacts and follow-up which could lead to implementation of projects;

(b) UNIDO contributed to the preparations for a similar investment forum for member countries of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa held at Libreville from 25 to 28 November 1991, with participation from Cameroon, Chad and Gabon;

(c) UNIDO has close working relations with IsDB. Among the ongoing activities, UNIDO is assisting the Bank to identify suppliers and potential joint venture partners for the manufacture of solar pumps utilizing photovoltaic cells in the Niger and Mauritania;

(d) Under a programme sponsored by France and Belgium, UNIDO is identifying and promoting investment projects in the building-material sector, including projects in Cameroon, Guinea and Senegal;

(e) As a follow-up to the meeting on industrial cooperation among countries of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) held in Tunisia in October 1990, UNIDO is assisting in the preparation of project documents on electronics and informatics, textiles, and mechanical, leather, pharmaceutical and agro-industries;

(f) A Second Joint Venture Meeting on Cooperation between Islamic Countries took place in Karachi, from 24 to 28 November 1991. It was organized by UNIDO in cooperation with the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The aim of the meeting was to assist selected least developed Islamic countries in the preparation of investment projects and in the identification of potential investment partners from more developed Islamic countries;

(g) As a follow-up to the project assessment meeting in Istanbul in March 1990, which was devoted to the promotion of joint venture cooperation between the Islamic countries, several projects are progressing in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Mali and the Niger.

66. In the field of transfer of technology and human resource development, a number of activities have been carried out such as:

(a) UNIDO's Industrial Partnership and Cooperation Development Scheme, which aims to assist enterprises in developing countries in solving specific technological problems through the short-term secondment of senior staff of a cooperating company. Under this scheme UNIDO has provided advisory services and training to 13 companies in seven OIC member States. These included Algerian, Cameroonian, Libyan, Nigerian, Pakistani, Saudi Arabian and Turkish companies in the fields ranging from natural gas, solar energy, construction, cement, metal industries, automotive components, to agro-based industries;

(b) UNIDO participated in and submitted an issue paper to the United Nations/OIC sectoral meeting on Human Resources Development: Basic Education and Training, held at Rabat, Morocco, from 24 to 26 April 1991. The purpose of the meeting was to review current and planned programmes of the United Nations and OIC, to review the needs and priorities of the OIC member States and to identify possible areas and modalities to coordinate activities in the area of human resources development;

(c) A fellowship programme on research and development in petrochemicals was held at Izmir, Turkey, in October 1991 for the benefit of 10 fellows from some North African and Middle Eastern countries, as a follow-up to the successfully implemented programme during the second half of 1990.

IV. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Department of Political Affairs: Outer Space Affairs Division

67. The Outer Space Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs cooperated with member States of OIC, particularly in implementing the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82).

68. Of the six training courses and workshops that were conducted in 1991 under the auspices of the United Nations Space Applications Programme, participants from member States of OIC took part in five: the Basic Space Science Workshop, held in India (30 April-3 May); the Microwave Remote Sensing Technology Workshop, held in Spain (10-14 June); the Workshop on the Application of Space Techniques to Combat Natural Disasters, held in China (23-27 September); the United Nations International Training Course on Remote Sensing Applications for Environmental Assessment and Monitoring, held in the

United States (9 September-4 October); and the Third United Nations Training Course on Geological Sciences, held in Germany (7-25 October). Participants from OIC States also attended a pre-International Astronautical Federation Congress Workshop on Space Technologies for Development, co-sponsored by the United Nations and held in Canada (5-10 October). All of these activities were organized to assist developing countries in using space technology for economic and social development.

69. Eighteen long-term fellowships were offered through the Space Applications Programme for in-depth training in space applications, and three recipients from OIC States, one Malaysian and two Nigerians, have been selected so far.

70. The Outer Space Affairs Division, through its Space Applications Programme, is ready, at OIC's request, to offer further assistance on education and training, especially in the practical applications of space technology, and to continue cooperation between the Division and OIC.

B. Department of Economic and Social Development

71. The Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD) has been implementing a substantial programme of technical cooperation activities in the developing countries that are members of OIC. In 1991, various technical cooperation projects were implemented by DESD in 45 OIC countries, with total project expenditures of over $63 million.

72. The technical cooperation projects implemented by the Department spanned the full range of DESD substantive fields and addressed many concerns of OIC member countries.

73. Strengthening of national capacities through human resources development received particular emphasis under the technical cooperation projects implemented by DESD in OIC member countries.

74. Accordingly, the training of national staff and the strengthening of institutional structures and mechanisms were especially important facets of projects in all sectors in which DESD participated.

75. In the energy sector, DESD implemented projects on petroleum, gas, coal exploration and development, planning and information systems, investment promotion and legislation, solar energy, energy conservation, renewable energy, geothermal resource assessment and development, wind and biomass demonstration and small-scale hydropower and development.

76. In the field of minerals, projects implemented include mineral policy legislation, mineral planning, geological, geochemical and geophysical mineral exploration, drilling, evaluation of mineral deposits, pre-feasibility studies, mining and processing, marketing and investment promotions.

77. Water resources projects included water resource development and management, sectoral analysis and macroeconomic water planning, surface and groundwater modelling, groundwater exploration, rural water supply, applied hydraulics research and coastal engineering, operation of water supply installations, water pollution control and environmental management, river basin development, legal institutional aspects of water resources developments and computer application and training.

78. DESD also implemented projects in the field of public works, transport, municipal engineering, mapping, surveying and remote sensing.

79. In addition, DESD is organizing jointly with the Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities a joint regional seminar on sustainable development, city infrastructure and environmental management. Close consultations were held between DESD and IFSTAD, a subsidiary organ of OIC, to establish a concrete basis for cooperation on projects including the holding of a conference on conversion of military equipment to civil use, and workshops on technology assessment and on biotechnology. Furthermore, as an input to Islamic countries' endeavours to reach sustainable development, DESD, IFSTAD and UNEP are joining efforts towards preparing a background working paper for the Sectoral Meeting on Science and Technology with Special Emphasis on the Environment.

80. In the sector of public administration and finance, DESD has given assistance through the Special Action Programme in Public Administration and Management (SAPAM) to those members of OIC countries in Africa in conducting diagnostic studies to strengthen public sector management. In the same sector, DESD has implemented projects in many OIC countries involved in so-called investment programmes.

81. In 1991 the Population Branch implemented various projects in OIC countries which cover three substantive areas: strengthening demographic analysis capabilities, demographic training and population and development.

82. In the sector of development planning, DESD has executed various projects in OIC member countries. In order to facilitate the cross-fertilization of ideas and strengthening of cooperative schemes in Islamic countries, planning methodologies and tools that have proved to be successful in one OIC country were widely diffused, whenever feasible, in other OIC countries.

83. DESD, which has also been very active in the field of statistics in OIC countries, will participate in the Third Islamic Countries Conference on Statistical Sciences to be held in Morocco in August 1992.

84. Today, as in previous years, DESD has worked closely with OIC in order to improve and further elaborate and define the modalities under which cooperation could be expended. In the execution of these projects all efforts are made to draw on expertise available within OIC countries in order to assist other countries of the group; hence a large number of experts and consultants working in those projects are nationals of other OIC countries.

C. Department of Humanitarian Affairs: Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator

85. During the period under review, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and UNDRO participated in the General Meeting between the Secretariat of the United Nations and OIC held at Geneva in November 1991. The joint meeting recommended that sectoral meetings in priority areas of cooperation, including disaster relief, be held. Accordingly, an OIC delegation is expected to visit the Department of Humanitarian Affairs-UNDRO, Geneva, shortly to discuss details and areas of cooperation.

86. In addition to keeping the OIC countries regularly informed of the relief assistance provided by the Department and UNDRO, appeals for assistance were launched and relief assistance was provided for the following Islamic States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Egypt, Lebanon, Somalia, Turkey and Yemen.

87. Following the cyclone which hit Bangladesh in May 1991, an inter-agency task force was set up in Dhaka by UNDRO's Coordinator to study the short- and medium-term needs for rehabilitation and restructuring.

88. In the area of disaster preparedness and prevention, activities were carried out in the following OIC member States:

Egypt: Strengthening of cooperation with UNDRO in disaster management planning was discussed during the visit to Geneva in September 1991 of a high-level Egyptian delegation headed by the Minister of Scientific Research. In this connection, the results of a technical cooperation project designed to work out a study on national disaster management capacity in respect of natural and industrial disasters were assessed.

Indonesia: UNDRO was involved in discussions with the concerned national authorities at the level of preparedness in the area surrounding the Mt. Gede volcano. UNDRO's input into the second phase of an UNDRO disaster preparedness project was also discussed.

Saudi Arabia: UNDRO continued its efforts to provide technical assistance to and cooperate with the Civil Defence Administration in the area of strengthening relief response. In this connection, a consultant was sent to Riyadh.

Yemen: In relation to the earthquake which hit the country in November 1991, a senior officer travelled to Sana'a to advise the Government on how to strengthen its policies and institutional framework for dealing with disaster management.

89. Within the framework of the UNDRO/UNDP Project on Seismic Risk Reduction in the Mediterranean (SEISMED), the following OIC member States participated in the second Workshop on Seismic Risk Reduction and Disaster Mitigation, which took place in Rome in November 1991: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia. The

aim of the Workshop was to present and discuss the various countries' approaches to planning seismic risk mitigation and to find out what impact these have had on country planning.

90. The following OIC countries will also be covered in 1992 by national and/or regional training courses organized within the framework of the implementation of the Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP) which was launched in July 1990 under the joint management of UNDRO and UNDP: Bangladesh, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and Yemen.

D. United Nations Children's Fund

91. Cooperation between UNICEF and OIC was formalized in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1982. Collaboration between the two organizations reached new heights during UNICEF advocacy at the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, held at Dakar from 9 to 11 December 1991. This culminated in the Summit's adoption of the Dakar Declaration addressing children's and women's issues. The substantive paragraphs of the resolution read as follows:

> "We emphasize that the survival, protection and development of children should receive the highest priority in the national, regional and international programmes and reaffirm our commitment to implement in an effective manner the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children held in New York in 1990.
>
> "We reaffirm the importance of the role of women in the process of development of the Muslim societies and call for greater participation of women in the activities for social development."

92. OIC's formal commitment to give priority to these issues within the Conference framework has created opportunities for further collaboration to foster enhanced activism on behalf of children and women. The close working relationship which UNICEF enjoys with the OIC secretariat, and with the delegations of OIC member States, provides a basis for continued interaction, particularly in the implementation of the Summit resolutions.

93. Among other things, the resolutions mandate the convening of the following meetings in 1992:

(a) Symposium on children's rights in Islam;

(b) Ministerial Conference on Child Survival and Development (CSD) in the Islamic Ummah;

(c) Symposium of experts to develop an appropriate mechanism for ensuring active participation of women in the field of social development;

(d) Conference of Ministers in charge of women's affairs.

94. The underlying purpose of UNICEF advocacy with OIC, as with all intergovernmental organizations, is to reinforce the commitment of leaders, peoples and institutions to implementing the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children. These meetings will provide further opportunities for a continuous process of interfacing with Governments and with other partners in support of implementing country programmes for children and women on a long-term basis.

E. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

95. UNRWA has maintained contacts at different levels with the OIC secretariat since 1987. Meetings take place at Jeddah from time to time between Agency officials and OIC Under-Secretary-General for Palestine and Al Quds and other secretariat staff. Regular contacts through correspondence and exchange of telephone calls have also been maintained.

96. UNRWA keeps OIC informed about its activities and programmes through public information and other materials which are regularly sent to Jeddah. At the same time UNRWA maintains good relations with IsDB, which is an organ of OIC.

97. UNRWA participated in the General Meeting between the United Nations system and OIC which took place at Geneva in November 1991.

98. It is hoped that the useful working relationship and cooperation between OIC and UNRWA which has been established will continue and strengthen in the future.

F. World Food Programme

99. Although formal cooperation between OIC and WFP has not been institutionalized, a long-standing association with the Governments of member countries of OIC has existed since the inception of the Programme in 1962. During the past 30 years, WFP's contribution to development projects and emergency relief operations in Islamic countries amounted to US$ 7 billion, representing about 70 per cent of the overall WFP commitments. WFP's current assistance to development projects in Islamic countries is estimated at about $1.160 billion; of the 88 projects approved for 29 countries members of OIC, 37 projects are being implemented in sub-Saharan African countries, 34 in the Middle East and North Africa, and 13 large-scale projects are at present operational in Asia.

100. Although nearly two thirds of WFP commodities are allocated to long-term development projects, the Programme is becoming increasingly involved in a growing number of emergency relief operations, designed to alleviate food shortages resulting from war, civil strife, drought and national disasters. In 1990-1991, commitments of WFP emergency food aid exceeded those of 1989 by

45 per cent. At present, 23 countries members of OIC receive emergency assistance amounting to $227 million.

G. Economic Commission for Africa

101. In order to build up appropriate capabilities necessary for the efficient and effective delivery of satisfactory services to its member States, ECA has entered into a wide range of programmes of technical cooperation agreements with both multilateral and bilateral funding agencies and donor organizations. It is in the pursuit of this drive for the establishment of effective cooperative relationships with other organizations that ECA signed an agreement of understanding with IsDB on 11 April 1987.

102. The Islamic Development Bank is one of the very important specialized institutions of OIC. Thus, this agreement of understanding marked the beginning of cooperation between ECA and the institutions of OIC. Under this agreement, the Bank has undertaken to cooperate with ECA in the execution and implementation of programmes of assistance to ECA member States which are also members of IsDB.

103. The list of fields and sectors of the economy to be covered by the activities of this programme of cooperation include areas of critical concern to the development of the African region such as agriculture and food production, science and technology for development, industrial development, natural resources development and environmental protection, promotion of external trade and manpower training, hydrology and economic and technical cooperation.

104. For the effective implementation of this programme, IsDB has made an initial commitment of just over half a million United States dollars. During 1991, ECA and IsDB had agreed to execute the following six projects under this programme of cooperation:

(a) Seminar on trade promotion and export marketing and research;

(b) Workshop on the development and processing of medicinal plants in Africa;

(c) Workshop for senior policy makers on the management of science and technology with emphasis on its application to development;

(d) Workshop on efficient utilization of existing fertilizer production units in Africa;

(e) Seminar for middle-level industrial managers and planners on policy, data and planning;

(f) Workshop on the development of entrepreneurial capabilities for cottage and small-scale industries.

105. Components of the last two projects have since been carried out successfully while the remaining programmes were due to be implemented this year.

106. ECA has also entered into an agreement with another important specialized institution of OIC, the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD). Following this agreement, IFSTAD has agreed to cooperate with ECA in undertaking joint action in the development of science and technology in their common member States. Among the project activities agreed upon were the following:

(a) Science and technology assessment in eastern and southern Africa;

(b) Development of subregional policy on science and technology development;

(c) Workshop on harmonization of subregional policies for science and technology.

107. In the best interest of its member States, ECA is prepared to explore other possibilities for widening the scope of its cooperation with OIC in many more areas of common interest.

H. International Labour Organisation

108. ILO has been undertaking various projects related to training and manpower development activities in OIC member countries. There are at present two operational projects and two planned projects for Egypt:

(a) Further technical assistance in practical implementation and validation of modules of employable skills (MES) training programmes;

(b) Training rural women's income-generating and basic life skills, which is to improve the social and economic well-being of women through training and community services. ILO has also a project in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the development of a vocational training institution in the ZAWIA region. ILO sent a mission in December 1990 to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with the purpose of advising the Bureau of Formation and Vocational Training and Manpower Development Policy.

109. ILO has two identical projects in two different regions of the Sudan: vocational training for income-generation in the Durfur and Kordofau regions where previously there were no training facilities. The training will take care of the special needs of women through special programmes in the villages where they live.

110. In the employment and manpower activities sector, ILO provided assistance to the Social Fund for Development and related programmes in Egypt for the creation of employment and reduction of poverty. It also undertook a project

on productive activities for women's shelters in the newly reclaimed land in southern Egypt. Similar projects were undertaken in Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar and the Sudan. The project on employment promotion and manpower policies in Jordan was "to raise the capacity of the Jordanian economy to generate productive jobs, hence reducing the level of unemployment and underemployment". Since 1987, ILO has assisted Mauritania in the implementation of a comprehensive food-for-work project (UNDP-financed with the Government as executing agency) aiming at reduction of external food-aid dependence in the long run and promotion of long-term employment and income opportunities.

111. ILO assisted the Government of Morocco in the improvement of labour absorption in national infrastructure programmes through better use of local resources. The Employment and Development Department (EMPLOI) of ILO participated in an ILO multi-disciplinary mission and prepared a section of the report covering the manpower/employment planning and labour market information situation in Qatar.

112. ILO provided technical assistance and training to local-level institutions in Kordofau, Darfur and White-Nile provinces in the Sudan with the aim of demonstrating, through special rural work programmes, the feasibility of employment policies and related objectives among special target groups.

Regional activities

113. The Regional Adviser on labour administration and legislation provided assistance to the Regional Arab Programme of Labour Administration (RAPLA) and the Skills Development Programme for Arab Countries (SDEPAC) in organizing regional seminars on employment services and migration; labour administration; labour inspection; systems approach to training; modules of employable skills training; and training policy. ILO also assisted in the regional project "Support to Arab Migration Policies", which was formulated to assist a number of countries to design policies that would enable them to obtain a better grip on immigration and return flows of their citizens. It also responded to their needs for human resources development that emerged from the Gulf crisis.

114. A number of missions were undertaken by regional advisers in the fields of cooperatives, labour administration and legislation, workers' and employers' activities, vocational rehabilitation and vocational training. The regional advisers' work included identification and preparation of new technical cooperation projects, technical advisory services, backstopping to the operational projects, organization of, and/or representation at, meetings and seminars and promotion of international labour standards.

115. ILO representatives continued to attend meetings of a general and specialized nature and the cooperation between ILO and OIC has increased and has taken the form of exchange of information and attendance at meetings and seminars. The volume of ILO operational activities in OIC member States increased significantly in 1991 and covered many social and technological aspects.

I. International Civil Aviation Organization

116. The Memorandum of Understanding between ICAO and IsDB has come into effect, upon signature by the President of the ICAO Council and the President of the Bank. The Memorandum recalls the vital contribution of civil aviation to the social and economic development of IsDB countries and provides for cooperation between ICAO and IsDB in all phases of civil aviation development projects, including their identification, preparation, execution and post-project evaluation.

J. World Health Organization

117. There has been continued consultation and cooperation between WHO and OIC in the domain of basic education and training for human development.

118. Practical steps have already been taken for this cooperation with the support of a multidimensional programme for human development which will encompass a variety of activities, all of which are interlinked and interrelated.

119. WHO/EMRO (WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Alexandria) assists the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) to implement the Prototype Action Oriented School Health Curriculum (PAOSHC) for primary schools, which had been accepted by ISESCO in 1989 in the Islamic countries.

120. WHO/EMRO assists and cooperates with OIC in the field of health education and healthy lifestyles.

121. WHO promotes emergency preparedness and responses in the member States within the "health for all strategies" and provides timely and appropriate responses to emergencies in collaboration with member States and other organizations including OIC.

K. World Bank

122. The thrust of Bank relations with OIC member States remains essentially unchanged. The Bank continues to support economic and social programmes in individual OIC member countries through its lending and selected activities. In fiscal year 1991, the Bank committed over US$ 6.7 billion to development programmes in these countries. This assistance was concentrated in the priority areas of education, population, health and nutrition, agriculture and rural development, energy, industry, transport and adjustment.

L. World Meteorological Organization

123. WMO assistance and technical cooperation activities in OIC member countries are continuing, using the available resources under UNDP, the WMO regular budget and the WMO Voluntary Cooperation Programme. WMO has been the instrument in implementing more than 30 UNDP-financed projects in 28 member countries of OIC in 1991 as follows:

Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda.

Arab States: Algeria, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Asia: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey.

124. Most of the projects are for the strengthening of the national meteorological and hydrological services in order to enable them to provide the necessary data and information for socio-economic development projects, including protection of life and property, and for the effective monitoring of the climatic changes and the protection of the atmospheric environment.

125. Within the framework of the WMO-Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP) and its regular budget, assistance was provided in the form of expert services, short- and long-term fellowships as well as meteorological and hydrological equipment and spare parts.

126. A number of intercountry activities were carried out during the reporting period with a view to strengthening the national capabilities and promoting technical cooperation among developing countries in response to the expressed needs for increased cooperation among member countries of OIC. In this respect, the newly established centre, namely, the African Centre for Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) in Niamey, Niger, is an example of these projects. The long-term objective of the Centre is to contribute to the socio-economic development of the African countries through the use of meteorological and hydrological data and products.

M. International Maritime Organization

127. The technical cooperation activities of IMO in the member States of OIC were carried out at the national and regional levels as follows:

National activities

Algeria

Specialized training of seafarers and technical shore-based personnel (ALG/89/001).

Yemen

(a) Maritime Training Centre at Aden (PDY/86/010);

(b) Plan of action for the Yemen Ports Authority (PDY/85/018) for expansion and modernization of the port of Aden.

Guinea

Training of Guineans at the Regional Academy of Maritime Science and Technology, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (GUI/NOR/80/01).

Senegal

(a) Rehabilitation and protection of the bays of Dakar (SEN/87/021);

(b) Plan of action for the protection of the Senegalese waters and coasts.

Regional activities

Africa

(a) Training of seafaring and technical shore-based personnel (RAF/87/138) aimed at developing new training programmes; Africanizing the Academy's teaching staff and establishing examination and certification structures;

(b) Assistance to the Association of African Maritime Training Institute (RAF/86/050) aimed at promoting horizontal cooperation among 10 African member States in the area of maritime training;

(c) African network of seminars on the facilitation of international maritime traffic (RAF/87/086);

(d) Human resources and institutional development in the sub-Saharan transport sector (RAF/89/026) aimed at developing training programmes for senior officials in each mode of transport.

Arab States

(a) Regional training at the Arab Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA) (RAB/88/010), which includes transfer of valuable teaching equipment;

(b) Assistance to the Association of African Arab Maritime Transport Training Institute (RAB/86/023) aimed at promoting horizontal cooperation in the area of maritime training among Algeria, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Somalia and Tunisia.

N. World Intellectual Property Organization

128. In the framework of the programme of cooperation between the United Nations system and OIC, WIPO attended the General Meeting between representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions, held at Geneva in November 1991. On that occasion, the representative of WIPO discussed the status of cooperation between WIPO and OIC secretariat and referred to the draft agreement for cooperation which was transmitted to OIC for consideration.

129. In 1991, most members of OIC benefited from WIPO's regular training programmes in the fields of industrial property or copyright organized at the national, subregional and regional levels. In the latter case, nationals of countries members of OIC attended such programmes as the Introductory Training Course on Industrial Property for Arab Countries held at Cairo, Egypt, from 22 to 25 July 1991; the Regional General Introductory Course on Industrial Property for English-Speaking Countries of Africa, held at Accra, Ghana, from 5 to 16 August 1991; the Regional General Introductory Course on Industrial Property for French-Speaking Countries of Africa, held at Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 21 to 31 October 1991; the Regional Seminar on the Use of Industrial Property and Technology Transfer Arrangements in the Food Processing Industry, held at Beijing, China, from 8 to 11 April 1991; and the Regional Training Course on Intellectual Property for Developing Countries of Asia and the Pacific, held at Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 15 to 26 July 1991.

130. WIPO also had an opportunity to hold talks with the representative of the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD), a specialized institution of OIC, to explore possible cooperation. WIPO undertook activities with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in the field of copyright and neighbouring rights pursuant to the agreement on cooperation between WIPO and ISESCO.

O. International Fund for Agricultural Development

IFAD investments in Islamic countries

131. As of 1 April 1992, IFAD has been instrumental in implementing 129 projects in 31 Islamic countries for a total project cost of US$ 7,047 million, of which IFAD contributed US$ 1,513 million (SDR 1,249 million) in loans and US$ 12 million (SDR 10 million) in technical assistance grants representing 45 per cent of all IFAD operations (US$ 3,355 million) and, at the same time, 41 per cent of the total number of approved projects (313). Other external donors contributed US$ 2,236 million and US$ 3,285 million came from the recipient Governments. Of the 129 projects IFAD approved for 31 Islamic countries, 50 are in Africa, 31 are in Asia, and 48 are in the Near East and North Africa.

Loan disbursements to Islamic countries

132. Most of IFAD's loans to Islamic countries are at a relatively early phase of the loan disbursement cycle. Nevertheless, as of the end of 1991, the Fund has been able to disburse about SDR 650 million (approximately US$ 929 million) to the Islamic countries. This works out to a cumulative disbursement rate of 56 per cent of the total loan commitment to the Islamic countries.

Contributions from Islamic countries

133. The 42 Islamic member Countries of IFAD have contributed a total of US$ 903 million to IFAD's resources under the Initial Resources, First, Second and Third Replenishments combined. This represents about 29 per cent of the total contributions made to IFAD's Resources in convertible currencies. The 11 Islamic Category II countries have contributed a total of US$ 876 million, 83 per cent of the total category contribution, and the 31 Category III countries, US$ 27 million representing 19 per cent of total Category III contributions.

Projects in the pipeline for Islamic countries

134. At present there are 42 projects in the pipeline for 24 Islamic countries. Of these, 11 are in Africa, 11 in Asia and 20 in the Near East and North Africa. This represents approximately 43 per cent of the total number of IFAD projects in the pipeline.

P. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

135. The GATT secretariat continued to provide technical assistance to OIC member States relating to regular GATT activities. Seminars, workshops and briefing sessions have also been held on a continuing basis, in order to keep participating countries informed about developments in the Uruguay Round negotiations.

136. During the period under review a national seminar was held in Tunisia, and technical advisory missions visited Malaysia and Tunisia.

137. In addition, two regional tariff negotiations workshops were held in Senegal and Kenya in September 1991 for African countries participating in the Uruguay Round, to which several OIC member States of the region were invited. A brainstorming meeting on trade in services was held in Egypt, with the participation of the Trade Promotion Advisory Service and GATT.

138. Officials from OIC member States, both contracting parties and others, have also been invited to participate, as in the past, in the GATT commercial policy training courses.

V. WORKING GROUP MEETING ON HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT: BASIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING

139. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/13 of 28 October 1991, a technical working group comprising concerned organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and OIC held a meeting on Human Resources Development: Basic Education and Training, at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 17 and 18 May 1992. The meeting was to assess progress achieved since the Rabat meeting on the same subject in April 1991 and make recommendations for development of human resources (see A/46/417/Add.1).

A. Organizational matters

140. The meeting had before it a report prepared by Dr. N. Al-Bukhari, a UNESCO consultant, on "A Programme for Basic Education and Training for Development of Human Resources in the Islamic Countries", which presented an overall picture obtaining in OIC member States.

141. Representatives of the following departments and specialized institutions of OIC participated in the meeting: the General Secretariat (Departments of Science and Technology and Department of Cultural and Social Affairs); the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO); the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD); the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR); the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT); the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC); and the Islamic Development Bank.

142. The following representatives from the United Nations system participated in the meeting: UNESCO and UNDP.

143. ISESCO and UNESCO were designated lead agencies of OIC and the United Nations system, respectively.

B. Summary of discussions

General

144. The participants reviewed the report prepared by the UNESCO consultant concerning basic education and training in the light of the Declaration of the World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990 and in the wider context of human development as discussed at the Rabat sectoral meeting in April 1991.

145. The participants, meeting in plenary sessions and in working groups, agreed on the need for continued consultations and cooperation between OIC and the United Nations system in the domain of basic education and training for human development. To this end, the participants agreed to support in principle the multidimensional programmes for human development that would encompass the variety of interrelated activities that had been highlighted in the report of Dr. Al-Bukhari. It was also decided that while doing so, consistent with the existing financial constraints, modifications would be made wherever necessary to the proposed programmes and the proposed strategy, scope and line of action.

Commitment to human development and to education for all

146. The meeting noted that the Islamic countries were committed to a policy of human development that emphasized basic education, in particular, as a factor in national development. This was considered indispensable for creating the necessary capacities for endogenous development, for cultural renewal and for strengthening national integration and social cohesion. Access to education for both male and female citizens was recognized as being important. The importance of science and technology in education was also emphasized, as was the need for creating linkages between education and other development issues.

147. The meeting also noted that despite the commendable efforts of Islamic countries to provide basic education for children and adults, the situation regarding human resources development continued to be a matter of grave concern.

148. It was also felt that education in Islamic countries continued to raise issues of quantitative and qualitative development. The participants highlighted the need for increased resources for education, improvement of the quality of its personnel, adoption of innovative approaches and methodologies, and more effective participation of the people in designing and implementing educational plans in Islamic countries.

C. Conclusions and recommendations

149. The meeting was unanimous in its conviction that the most appropriate course of action for Islamic countries to meet the challenges of the future was to expand access to education and to include all sectors; to improve and diversify the quality of education; and to meet the learning needs of all citizens of all ages.

150. The meeting agreed that Islamic countries should be assisted by both specialized institutions of OIC and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in designing and implementing educational plans to achieve real progress in meeting the basic learning needs of their populations, as a prerequisite for human development.

151. The UNESCO consultant, explaining the technical details of his report, pointed out that project areas and the functional programmes had been prepared on the basis of levels of educational development in different OIC member States and were essentially multidimensional in nature. This ensured flexibility for possible adoption of suggestions which the participants might propose in the course of the meeting.

152. Taking note of the consultant's comment, IsDB and UNDP explained their own procedures for the extension of their financial assistance.

153. After serious discussion and review of the overall strategy the participants decided that the consultant, on the basis of the report as a basic document, would prepare the terms of reference for eventual pilot project documents as a first step in the following subject areas in OIC member States mentioned against each subject:

(a) Girl's and women's education in Islamic countries with particular emphasis on their participation in literacy and skill-training programmes - Pakistan, Yemen and Burkina Faso;

(b) Introduction of science and technology in primary education - Oman, Mali and Maldives;

(c) Literacy and skill training for adults in non-formal education - Bangladesh, Guinea and the Sudan.

154. While doing so, the consultant, with UNDP support, will draft the general terms of reference to work out the detailed project documents.

155. The terms of reference should, inter alia, consider the following:

(a) The project document should reflect the political and social commitment of the member States;

(b) The project should avoid overlapping with other projects. On the contrary, it should be complementary to such projects as currently exist in the country;

(c) A built-in possibility of going-to-scale;

(d) The project should last no more than two years and funding should remain below US$ 400,000;

(e) The project document will be drafted along approved UNDP and IsDB guidelines.

156. Selected countries, after consultation with ISESCO, will submit their requests to UNDP and IsDB for consultants called upon to work out project documents.

157. Once the project documents have been established, they will be submitted for funding to the concerned institutions.

158. It was decided that the general secretariat of OIC would coordinate with ISESCO and UNESCO in the implementation of the selected projects to be undertaken in the subject areas agreed upon.

159. As to the immediate steps to be undertaken, it is foreseen that:

(a) A consultant will proceed to drafting the terms of reference for consultancies;

(b) On the basis of such terms of reference, the OIC general secretariat, in coordination with ISESCO, will contact the selected countries for appropriate action.

160. The meeting also agreed that agencies, in order to promote cooperation, would coordinate wherever necessary in their plans in the joint implementation of their work in OIC member States. In this context, against the backdrop of the consultant's report, it was felt that such cooperation should be a multidimensional, integrated approach that should include not only resident permanent populations but also refugees and immigrant populations.

161. Participants, during their consideration of the report, suggested that:

(a) The implementation of projects could also take into account unconventional methods like the use of mass media, open-university/schools systems;

(b) Existing facilities in OIC subsidiary organs could be utilized for carrying out training programmes;

(c) There was need to include technical education for adults;

(d) Programmes should be organized within the framework of human development policy as outlined in the Declaration of the World Conference on Education for All, 1990, country priorities, interrelated areas of government programme action and capacity-building measures;

(e) Collaborative modes in programme action were desirable;

(f) Political commitment of Governments to implement projects could lead to multiplier effects;

(g) Overlapping in project areas of action should be avoided.

162. The meeting also considered the interdisciplinary nature of the pressing needs of education, science and technology, and technical vocational training. In this regard, it stressed the need to strengthen research and information capacity in the Islamic countries.

163. In the implementation of the recommendations of the report, the meeting also agreed to the following:

(a) Each country would determine its areas of priority that would have a multiplier effect;

(b) Priority would be given to women and disadvantaged groups such as rural populations, adults and other low-income groups;

(c) Exchange of expertise among Islamic countries would be increased;

(d) Non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions from the private sector would be invited to take a more active role in the development of human resources;

(e) The private sector, universities, research institutions and the media should play a leading role in the development of human resources.

164. It was agreed that to facilitate the implementation of the projects, the draft report of the consultant would also be circulated by the OIC general secretariat to the relevant authorities of OIC member States for their attention and background information.

165. The Technical Working Group, comprising concerned organizations and agencies from OIC and the United Nations, should meet during the first quarter of 1993 in Paris to assess progress achieved in the implementation of the agreed areas of action.